



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

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START THE NEW YEAR OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT ...WITH A SUNRISE HIKE ON THE MAKAPU‘U LIGHTHOUSE TRAIL

HONOLULU -- The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) invites the public to a special New Year's Day hike on Sunday January 1, 2012 on the Makapu'u lighthouse trail in the Ka Iwi State Scenic Wilderness Park of east O'ahu.

On this day only, Division of State Parks staff will open the gate along Kalaniana'ole highway for vehicle parking in the trail parking lot at 5:30 a.m. (parking is first-come, first-served).

The Makapu'u trail is an old paved lighthouse management road that leads to the summit of Makapu'u ridge.

Hike leader Curt Cottrell, assistant State Parks administrator, will lead the hike up the road. Everyone is invited to gather at the trail's end on Makapu'u ridge to watch the sun rise at 7:09 a.m. As the sun comes up on the horizon between sea and sky a chanter will offer a traditional Hawaiian oli to greet the first sunrise of the New Year.

The morning hike is just one of 50 "First Day" hikes being observed in all U.S. states, an initiative of the America's State Parks organization to promote healthy lifestyles and encourage year-round recreation at state parks. For more information go to www.americasstateparks.org

The 1.5 mile round trip on the access road is considered of moderate difficulty, and suited for children of any age (strollers are welcome). Bring windbreakers, supportive shoes, warm beverages and cameras!

Afterward, depending on skill and interest, State Parks staff will lead people down a steep and difficult side .75 mile trail to a coastal bench at sea level that has several large tide pools teeming with aquatic wildlife and an active blowhole. For this optional trail section children should be at least 5 year of age and comfortable with navigating a steep and rocky trail.

For more information about the First Day –Makapu'u Lighthouse Trail hike, call the Division of State Parks at 587-0300.

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For more information news media may contact:
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View of the Waimanalo coast from Ka Iwi State Scenic Wilderness Park
- Photo by Division of State Parks